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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yuichiro OGAWA

Group Art Unit: 1733

Application No.: 09/370,981

Examiner: J. Fischer

Filed: August 10, 1999

Docket No.: 104018

For: PNEUMATIC RADIAL TIRES

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the February 13, 2002, Office Action, the period for reply extended by a 3-month Petition for Extension of Time to August 13, 2002, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-10 are pending.

Before discussing the substantive issues with respect to the rejections, Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement on August 10, 1999 forwarding four references to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Applicant received a partially initialed Form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested the Examiner consider the reference listed under U.S. Patent Documents and return a completely initialed Form PTO-1449 to Applicant's representative. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the partially initialed Form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

An Election of Species Requirement was required between the figures. Accordingly, Applicant elected Species I, Fig. 1, 3, 4 and 5 and Species A, Fig. 2, claims 1-4 and 9. However, Applicant retains claims 6-8 as they are dependent from claim 1 and remain

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generic to claim 1. Thus, claims 6-8 would be allowable for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable.

Furthermore, Applicant also requests consideration of added claim 10 because Applicant asserts a search for claim 10 does not place a serious burden upon the Examiner. In particular, Applicant's claim 10 recites a core which extends from an outside of the tire toward an inside thereof. Conversely, Applicant's claim 1 recites a core which extends from an inside of the tire toward an outside thereof. In fact, as shown in Masclaux, U.S. Patent No. 4,700,765, the Examiner applied a reference which uses a core which extends from both the inside of the tire toward an outside and from the outside of the tire toward the inside.

As stated on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner believes that the depiction of both embodiments in a single reference is irrelevant. However, by stating that both embodiments are disclosed in a single reference makes it evident that an unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicate examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office exists because the search for one embodiment overlaps a search for the second embodiment. Applicant thus asserts that a serious burden on the Examiner to examine both embodiments has not been established. It is respectfully requested that claim 10 be entered and considered by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 3-243404 (JP '404) in view of Ueyoka, U.S. Patent No. 5,885,387. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant first asserts neither JP '404 nor Ueyoka teach, disclose or suggest a pneumatic radial tire with two bead cores arranged adjacent to each other in a widthwise direction and at least one of the two bead cores having a structure such that one or more steel wires are arranged lengthwise and widthwise in radial and widthwise directions of the tire as recited in Applicant's claim 1.

JP '404 discloses two annular bead cores consisting of a main bead core 2 having a polygonal shape (hexagonal shape) at section and subsidiary bead core 3 having a circular shape at section, each of which cores being an assembly of plural steel wires (Abstract and associated figure). As such, the structure of the bead cores in JP '404 cannot be arranged adjacent to each other in a widthwise direction and cannot be arranged lengthwise and widthwise in radial and widthwise directions because to provide such a structure would prevent the creation of the polygonal and circular shape.

Furthermore, by using a polygonal shape for the main bead core 2 and a circular shape for the subsidiary bead core 3, JP '404 suffers the deficiencies of Applicant's related art because the carcass 9 cannot be strongly sandwiched between the main bead core 2 and the subsidiary bead core 3. As shown in the figure of JP '404, a gap exists between the carcass 9 and two ends of the polygonal-shaped main bead core 2. Applicant overcomes this deficiency, and thus provides a rigid structure by having rectangular -shaped bead cores 4i and 4o, for example as shown in Fig. 1, with steel wires arranged lengthwise and widthwise in radial and widthwise directions of the tire. Ueyoka fails to overcome the deficiencies of JP '404 because Ueyoka only uses one bead core (Fig. 1, for example).

Secondly, JP '404 fails to teach, disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed invention because JP '404 fails to provide a radial carcass comprised of a rubberized ply of a continuous cord successively repeating round trip in at least one of the two bead cores as a pair between the pair of the bead portions along a circumference of the bead portion with a roundtrip return portion of the cord existent in both the bead portions as recited in Applicant's claim 1.

The Abstract and Figure of JP '404 only describes the carcass 9 as a steel cord which is turned around the main bead core 2 from inside 10 to outside 11. Applicant thus asserts that it is neither taught nor disclosed in JP '404 to provide a roundtrip return portion. In fact, Applicant asserts there is no teaching, suggestion or motivation in JP '404 to provide a

roundtrip return portion as recited in Applicant's claim 1 for the advantages discussed in Applicant's specification.

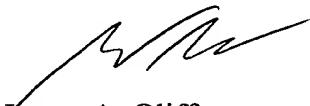
As such, Applicant asserts there is no teaching, motivation or suggestion to replace the carcass 9 in JP '404 with the carcass 7 in Ueyoka. The problem presented and solved by JP '404 is to improve the durability of the bead section structure (title of JP '404) by using a first and second stiffening layers 12, 13 with carcass 9 and not to provide a carcass structure which controls a pulling-out phenomenon of a carcass ply cord and to sufficiently ensure a strength and rigidity required for a bead portion to provide excellent bead portion durability by providing a round trip return portion located through a side face of the bead cores having the structure as recited in Applicant's claim 1.

In addition, claims 2, 4 and 9 recite additional features of the invention and are also believed to be allowable at least for reasons discussed above with regard to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-10 are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb

Date: August 13, 2002

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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